

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 11187 161206Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 W  
-----009583 161209Z /23

O 161147Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6206

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 11187

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: BEXP, IV  
SUBJECT: ISC/SODESUCRE DISPUTE

REF: STATE 273743

1. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL, I TELEPHONED GUY NAIRAY, DIRECTOR OF CABINET AT PRESIDENCY, TO ASK WHETHER SOME RESPONSE TO DAVID MORSE'S REQUEST FOR AN AUDIENCE COULD BE CONVEYED TO MORSE PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM US NOVEMBER 19. NAIRAY SAID THAT BOTH TELEXES HAD BEEN RECEIVED BUT THAT, AS WE KNEW, PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM HAD BEEN EXTREMELY HEAVY IN PAST MONTH WITH LITTLE OR NO RELIEF IN SIGHT. THUS, IT HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO GIVE A DEFINITE ANSWER TO MORSE. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HOWEVER, NAIRAY NOTED THAT MORSE WAS WELL-KNOWN TO HOUPHOUET, HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT IN PAST, AND THEREFORE NAIRAY BELIEVED AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. MORSE SHOULD BE REMINDED OF HOUPHOUET'S HEAVY SCHEDULE AND CONSEQUENT DIFFICULTY OF FIXING DEFINITE DATE IN ADVANCE.

2. COMMENT: I THINK THAT ON THE STRENGTH OF NAIRAY'S ASSURANCES MORSE CAN BE REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT HOUPHOUET WILL RECEIVE HIM. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, APPOINTMENTS WITH PRESIDENT ARE NOT RPT NOT NORMALLY

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FIXED MORE THAN A FEW DAYS -- AND SOMETIMES A FEW HOURS -- IN ADVANCE. I DID NOT RPT NOT ASK WHETHER HOUPHOUET HAD "PERSONALLY" SEEN MESSAGES FROM MORSE, SINCE TO HAVE DONE SO WOULD HAVE BEEN TO IMPLY THAT WE DID NOT TRUST NAIRAY'S SENSE OF PRIORITIES. NAIRAY IS IN FACT AN IMPECCABLY EFFICIENT CHIEF OF STAFF AND IT IS INCONVEIVABLE TO ME THAT MORSE'S COMMUNICATIONS ON A SUBJECT AS IMPORTANT

AS THE ISC/SODESUCRE DISPUTE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SHOWN PROMPTLY TO THE PRESIDENT. I THINK MORSE SHOULD ASSUME THAT HE WILL SEE HOUPHOUET BUT THAT HE MAY NOT HAVE A CONFIRMED TIME FOR THE AUDIENCE PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL IN ABIDJAN.

STEARNS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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